March 7, 2013

Sac State’s Rising Star keeps ascending

Christina Preston is altogether deserving of the Rising Star award she will receive as a distinguished Sacramento State alumna. The honor will be bestowed at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, April 25, at the Alumni Center.

Having graduated magna cum laude from the Department of Anthropology in 2011, Preston has been working in that department in the Archaeological Curation Facility, assisting Professor Jacob L. Fisher in ensuring that the University meets its responsibilities under the Native American Graves Repatriation and Protection Act of 1990.

Preston was designated one of Sacramento’s “Hometown Heroes” in 2012 by the Air Force Thunderbirds for her good work on behalf of the needy. She began charitable work at age 16 and for nearly four years has collected shoes for the homeless. “I’ve long empathized with those who don’t have much,” she says, “because I didn’t have much growing up.”

Preston started her community project, Shoes4Sacramento, in 2010 to help needy families and the homeless. She also became a service provider at Homeless Connect, a yearly event hosted by Steps Forward, which provides much-needed services to the homeless population.

She recently was contacted by the Sacramento Police Department to help collect shoes for its Kops-N-Kids summer sport program beginning in June. Kops-N-Kids is a summer sports program that mentors children ages 8 to 17 to avoid drugs, guns and gangs. Many are from low-income families that cannot afford the proper footwear to participate in the program.

She’s also still collecting all types of shoes for men, women and children that will be refurbished and distributed at Homeless Connect in June, and is trying to obtain nonprofit status for Shoes4Sacramento.

Preston has set up bins throughout Sacramento at the following times and locations through March 15:

- 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday, Multi-Cultural Center, University Library, Sacramento State.
• 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday, Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, Sacramento State.
• 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday, Heart of Central California Girl Scout Shop, 6601 Elvas Ave., Sacramento.
• 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday, Sacramento Police Department headquarters, 5770 Freeport Blvd.
• 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday, Sacramento Police Department substation, 300 Richards Blvd.
• 2-8:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday, noon-8:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 9 a.m-8:30 p.m. Sunday, Roseville Moose Lodge, 506 Lincoln St. (near crooked bridge in Old Roseville), Roseville.
• 5 a.m.-9 p.m. daily, Starbucks, 603 E. Bidwell St., Folsom.
• 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Friday, Granite Arch Rock Climbing, 11135 El Dorado Freeway, Rancho Cordova.

Updates about collections will be posted on www.shoes4sacramento.com.

Preston’s professional goal is to deliver greater assistance to those who need a helping hand. Her drive and determination suggest that Sacramento State’s Rising Star will do just as she aspires.

For media assistance, contact Sacramento State’s Public Affairs office at (916) 278-6156.

– Alan Miller
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